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ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN PRINCIPAL ORGANS: ELECTION OF FIVE NON-PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Letter dated 12 August 1991 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the letter and its annex addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Vanuatu (A/46/344). In paragraph 43 of the above-mentioned annex, there has appeared the name "Taiwan/Republic of China". This runs counter to the letter and spirit of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXXI) of 25 October 1971. Hence, the appearance of the above-mentioned name in United Nations documents is totally inadmissible. We cannot but express our regret. I hereby wish to reaffirm that there is only one China in the world, that is the People's Republic of China. The Chinese Government opposes any kind of official relations with the authorities in Taiwan on the part of countries having diplomatic relations with China. Taiwan is an inalienable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China.

Please allow me to request Your Excellency that this letter be circulated as an official document of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly under agenda items 4, 15 (a), 19, 20, 36, 37, 43, 44, 46, 51, 59, 60 (i), 69, 70, 77, 78, 79, 80, 82, 88, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97 and 103.

(Signed) LI Daoyu
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of China to the
United Nations

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OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Letter dated 27 September 1991 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the letter and its annex addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Vanuatu on behalf of Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu requesting the circulation as an official document of the General Assembly of the communiqué of the South Pacific Forum (A/46/344), which was issued on 24 September 1991. In paragraph 43 of the annex, there has appeared the designation "Taiwan/Republic of China". This runs counter to the letter and spirit of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) adopted on 25 October 1971. Hence, the appearance of such a designation in United Nations documents is totally inadmissible. We cannot but express our regret. I hereby wish to reaffirm that there is only one China in the world, that is the People's Republic of China. Taiwan is an

inalienable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China. The Chinese Government opposes any kind of official relations with the authorities in Taiwan on the part of countries having diplomatic relations with China.

Please allow me to request Your Excellency that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 4, 15 (a), 19, 20, 36, 37, 43, 44, 46, 51, 59, 60 (i), 69, 70, 77, 78, 79, 80, 82, 88, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97 and 103.

(Signed) LI Daoyu
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
the People's Republic of China to the
United Nations

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Agenda item 31
THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:
THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE
AND SECURITY AND PEACE
INITIATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 26 September 1991 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the "New York Agreement" signed at United Nations Headquarters on 25 September 1991, containing the results of the negotiations held from 16 to 25 September between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional.

I should be very grateful if you could have this note and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 31, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ricardo G. CASTANEDA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

NEW YORK AGREEMENT

The Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (hereinafter called "the Parties"),

Convinced of the need to give a final impetus to the process of negotiations currently taking place with the active participation of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, so that the set of political agreements required to bring a definitive end to the armed conflict in our country can be reached as speedily as possible,

Conscious of the fact that, in order to achieve the aforementioned objective, it is essential to establish a set of conditions and guarantees which will ensure the full implementation of those political agreements by both Parties,

Have reached the following political agreement:

I. COMISION NACIONAL PARA LA CONSOLIDACION DE LA PAZ

1. The Comisión Nacional para la Consolidación de la Paz (National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace) (COPAZ) shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation of all the political agreements reached by the Parties. COPAZ is a mechanism for the monitoring of and the participation of civilian society in the process of the changes resulting from the negotiations, in relation both to the armed forces, in particular, and to the other items on the agenda.

2. Composition

   a. COPAZ shall be composed of two representatives of the Government, including a member of the armed forces, two representatives of FMLN and one representative of each of the parties or coalitions represented in the Legislative Assembly.

   b. The Archbishop of San Salvador and a delegate of ONUSAL shall have access to the work and deliberations of COPAZ, as observers.

3. Decisions

   COPAZ shall adopt its decisions by majority vote.

4. Powers

   a. COPAZ shall not have executive powers since it is for the Parties, through their internal machinery, to carry out the peace agreements.

b. The Parties shall be obliged to consult COPAZ before adopting decisions or measures relating to relevant aspects of the peace agreements. Similarly, COPAZ may consult the Parties, at the highest level, whenever it deems it appropriate to do so. In the event of a difference of opinion as to whether a matter should be submitted to COPAZ, the question shall be decided by COPAZ.

c. At the request of three or more of its members, COPAZ shall be convened immediately and its opinion heard.

d. COPAZ shall have direct access to the President of the Republic and shall meet with him whenever COPAZ itself or the President deems it appropriate.

e. COPAZ shall have access to and may inspect any activity or site connected with the implementation of the peace agreements.

f. COPAZ shall have the power to issue conclusions and recommendations of any kind relating to the implementation of the peace agreements and to make them public. The Parties undertake to comply with those conclusions and recommendations.

g. COPAZ shall have the power to prepare the preliminary legislative drafts necessary for the development of the agreements which have been reached, both on the subject of the armed forces and on the other items on the agenda.

h. COPAZ shall have the power to oversee the implementation of the agreements reached by the Parties, both on the subject of the armed forces and on the other items on the agenda.

i. COPAZ shall be responsible for the preparation of the preliminary legislative drafts necessary to ensure that all those wounded in the war and, where appropriate, the families of combatants who have died, on both sides, are incorporated into the social security system of the State or receive adequate economic compensation, as provided for by law.

j. In the performance of its functions, COPAZ shall be authorized to address the relevant organs of the United Nations, through the Secretary-General.

k. COPAZ shall have full powers to organize its work in the manner which it deems most appropriate and to appoint any groups or subcommissions which it may deem useful in the discharge of its mission. For that purpose, it shall have its own budget.

5. Form

In addition to being the product of this political agreement, COPAZ shall be confirmed by law.

6. Duration

a. Between the date of this agreement and the cessation of the armed conflict, two representatives of the Government, including one member of the armed forces, two representatives of FMLN and one representative of each of the parties or coalitions represented in the Legislative Assembly shall work under a special operational régime of a transitional nature which they themselves shall define. This work shall include the preparation of the preliminary draft legislation to formalize the establishment of COPAZ.

b. The preliminary draft legislation to formalize the establishment of COPAZ shall be submitted to the Legislative Assembly within eight (8) days following the signing of the cessation of armed conflict. The formal establishment of COPAZ shall take place within eight (8) days following the promulgation of the said law.

c. COPAZ shall be dissolved once the implementation of the peace agreements has been completed. Its dissolution shall be decided upon by COPAZ itself, by means of an agreement receiving a favourable vote from at least two thirds of its members.

7. International guarantees

a. The establishment of COPAZ shall be explicitly endorsed by a resolution to be adopted by the Security Council concerning the peace agreements.

b. The Secretary-General shall keep the Security Council informed regarding the activities and effectiveness of COPAZ.

c. COPAZ shall be endorsed by Governments which are in a position to support effectively the guarantee required under the agreements as well as the work of COPAZ. In particular, the cooperation of those Governments shall be expressed and given in such a way as to promote the proposals set forth in the peace agreements as well as their full implementation.

II. PURIFICATION 1/

1. A process of purification of the armed forces is agreed upon, on the basis of a vetting of all personnel serving in them by an ad hoc Commission.

2. Participation by the armed forces will comprise two of their personnel, who shall have access only to the deliberations of the Commission.

1/ The mechanisms for selecting all participants in the ad hoc Commission, as well as the voting criteria and other measures relating to the purification, will be dealt with in the compressed negotiations.

III. REDUCTION OF THE ARMED FORCES

1. The criteria for reduction of the armed forces shall be agreed upon between the Parties.

2. The criteria shall determine inter alia the guidelines on the basis of which:

   a. The size to which the armed forces shall be reduced in peacetime shall be determined;

   b. The plan for the reduction (manner, timetable, budget, etc.) shall be drawn up.

IV. DOCTRINE OF THE ARMED FORCES

Agreement shall be reached on the redefinition of the doctrine of the armed forces based on the ideas that emerge from the agreements on this subject and from the constitutional reform. It is understood that the function of the armed forces is to defend the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of its territory, and that this doctrine should be based on the principle that the activities and regime of the armed forces shall be consistent with the principles deriving from the concept of the legally-constituted State governed by the rule of law, the primacy of the dignity of the human person and respect for human rights; defence of and respect for the sovereignty of the Salvadorian people; the concept of the armed forces as an institution in the service of the nation, free from all considerations of politics, ideology or social standing, and from all other forms of discrimination; and the subordination of the armed services to the constitutional authorities.

V. TRAINING SYSTEM FOR THE ARMED FORCES

Full effect will be given in its entirety to the agreement reached in Mexico on 27 April 1991 whereby the professional training of personnel serving in the armed forces shall place emphasis on the pre-eminence of human dignity and democratic values, respect for human rights and the subordination of such forces to the constitutional authorities. The agreements reached in this respect shall comprise regulatory provisions guaranteeing the foregoing points as well as the admission and instruction systems.

VI. NATIONAL CIVIL POLICE

The agenda for the negotiations on the National Civil Police provided for in the constitutional reform approved in the Mexico agreements shall include the following items: 2/

2/ The negotiations on the National Civil Police and on the Public Security Forces are at an advanced stage. The Parties have in their possession a working paper which reflects the progress made.

a) Establishment of the NCP. 3/ Doctrine. Juridical regime;

b) Disbandment of the National Guard and the Treasury Police, as Public Security Forces;

c) Personnel of the NCP:

1/) Vetting of National Police personnel.

2/) Enlistment of new personnel. Pluralistic and non-discriminatory selection and training system.

3/) Profiles and training.

4/) International advisory services and support coordinated by the United Nations. The organization of the NCP and of the National Public Security Academy and the selection of their personnel will be the subject of close international cooperation and supervision.

5/) Transitional regime.

VII. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

1. Lands in excess of the constitutional limit of 245 hectares, as well as lands owned by the State which are not currently legally designated forest reserves, shall be used to meet the needs of peasants and small farmers who are without land. To this end, the Government shall also make arrangements to purchase lands offered for sale to the State.

2. The current land-holding situation in the conflict zones shall be respected until a satisfactory legal solution for the definitive land-holding regime is arrived at. The procedures and deadlines for the implementation of this agreement shall be agreed upon in the compressed negotiations.

3. The policies for granting loans to the agriculture and livestock sector shall be revised.

4. The Parties refer to the compressed negotiations, as part of the economic and social subject area, consideration of the following topics:

3/ Given the complexity of the task and the time required to carry it out, the process of organizing the new National Civil Police needs to begin immediately, i.e. without awaiting other political agreements or the cessation of the armed confrontation. To this end, provision of the international advisory services required has already begun.

a. Measures required to alleviate the social cost of structural adjustment programmes;

b. Appropriate procedures for direct external cooperation designed to encourage community assistance and development projects;

c. Establishment of a Forum for economic and social accommodation, with participation by the governmental, labour and business sectors, for the purpose of continuing to resolve economic and social problems. The Forum may be open to participation by other social and political sectors as observers, under terms to be determined by it.

VIII. REMAINDER OF THE AGENDA

1. Other aspects still pending under the "Armed Forces" item relate to the guarantees of compliance with the agreements. No direct mention is made of these, because they are subject to agreement in the compressed negotiations. In any event, their fulfilment and implementation will be the responsibility of COPAZ.

2. On the same date, the Parties have agreed on an agenda for the compressed negotiations on the pending items, which shall be deemed to form part of the present agreement. Those items on this agenda which have been the subject of agreements in principle in the present agreement shall be subject to consideration and negotiation in conformity with the criteria and principles defined herein.

New York, 25 September 1991

Representing the Government of El Salvador:	Representing the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional:
Dr. Oscar Santamaría	Cmdr. Schafik Handal
Col. Mauricio Ernesto Vargas	Cmdr. Francisco Jovel
Dr. David Escobar Galindo	Cmdr. Salvador Sánchez Cerén
	Cmdr. Eduardo Sancho
	Cmdr. Joaquín Villalobos

Alvaro de Soto
Representative of the Secretary-General
of the United Nations

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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:
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INITIATIVES

Security Council
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 4 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the document entitled "The Compressed Negotiations" signed at United Nations Headquarters on 25 September 1991 by representatives of the Government of El Salvador and of Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN).

I should be very grateful if you would have this note and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 31, and of the Security Council, as an addendum to document A/46/502-S/23082 of 26 September 1991.

(Signed) Ricardo G. CASTANEDA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

THE COMPRESSED NEGOTIATIONS

Article 1. AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

Compression of the negotiations aims to secure, at one go, political agreements to:

(a) Coordinate an end to the armed conflict and to every act that violates the rights of the civilian population, under United Nations verification, subject to the approval of the Security Council; and

(b) Establish the guarantees and conditions needed to reintegrate members of FMLN into the civilian, institutional and political life of the country in absolute legality.

Accordingly, all the substantive items on the Agenda would be negotiated and settled prior to the end of the armed conflict. This will mean a cease-fire of predetermined length, short and dynamic, during which there would not be any substantive negotiations but only the measures necessary to put the agreements reached into practice.

This implies that the Agenda approved at Caracas should be reshaped to take account of the above aims and of the outcome of the negotiations conducted since then.

Article 2. SUBJECTS FOR NEGOTIATION

The matters to be negotiated are as follows:

I. ARMED FORCES 1/

This item includes:

1. Doctrine.

2. Training system.

3. Purification.

1/ Most of the sub-items under this point are fairly advanced on the basis of the working document prepared by the intermediary.

4. Reduction. 2/

5. Waiver of impunity. 3/

6. Public Security Forces: 4/

- Establishment of the NCP. 5/ Doctrine. Juridical regime.

- Disbandment of the National Guard and the Treasury Police, as Public Security Forces.

- Personnel of the NCP. Vetting of National Police personnel. Enlistment of new personnel. Pluralistic and non-discriminatory selection and training system.

- Profiles and training.

- International advisory services and support.

- Transitional regime.

6. [sic] Intelligence services: 6/

- Disbandment of the DNI.

- Establishment of the OIE. Doctrine. Juridical regime.

- Personnel of the OIE.

- Monitoring.

2/ The question will be considered within the scope defined by the New York Agreement.

3/ See "Comisión de la Verdad" (Truth Commission) in the Mexico agreements of 27 April 1991. The working paper on the Armed Forces sets forth the connection between the subject and that Commission.

4/ This question has also reached an advanced stage, on the basis of an additional document prepared by the intermediary.

5/ In view of the complexity of the task and the time required to carry it out, the process of organizing the new National Civil Police needs to begin immediately, i.e. without awaiting other political agreements or the cessation of the armed confrontation.

6/ This question has also reached an advanced stage, on the basis of an additional document prepared by the intermediary.

7. Rapid deployment infantry battalions.

8. Subordination to the civil power.

9. Paramilitary entities:

- Civil defence.

- Regime of the Salvadorian Armed Forces reserves.

- Eradication of illegal groups.

- Regulation of private security.

- Monitoring.

10. Suspension of conscription.

11. Preventive and promotional methods.

12. Relocation and reduction.

13. International verification.

II. JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Implementation of the political agreements for the development of the constitutional reform adopted in the Mexico agreements of 27 April 1991.

III. ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Implementation of the political agreements for the development of the constitutional reform adopted in the Mexico agreements of 27 April 1991.

IV. RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

This item is inferred from the Mexico agreements of 27 April 1991. It is an indispensable prerequisite for the concretization of other political agreements, such as many of those referring to the electoral and judicial systems, as well as the agreement relating to the National Civil Police, for example. Consequently, progress should be made in that direction without further delay.

V. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

VI. CONDITIONS FOR THE CESSATION OF THE ARMED CONFRONTATION

The work that has been done with regard to this question will have to be adapted to the arrangements for the cease-fire described above, and particularly to its dynamic character, the consequence of the compression of the negotiations.

VII. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION BY FMLN

VIII. VERIFICATION BY THE UNITED NATIONS

IX. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

New York, 25 September 1991

Representing the Government of El Salvador:

Dr. Oscar Santamaría

Col. Mauricio Ernesto Vargas

Dr. David Escobar Galindo

Representing Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional:

Cmdr. Schafik Handal

Cmdr. Francisco Jovel

Cmdr. Salvador Sánchez Cerén

Cmdr. Eduardo Sancho

Cmdr. Joaquín Villalobos

Alvaro de Soto
Representative of the Secretary-General
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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights and effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to such instruments

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 45/85 of 14 December 1990, the General Assembly, inter alia, endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies aimed at streamlining, rationalizing and otherwise improving reporting procedures and decided to give further consideration to those conclusions and recommendations at its forty-sixth session in the light of the deliberations of the Commission on Human Rights.

2. The Commission on Human Rights discussed the conclusions and recommendations of the meetings of chairpersons at its forty-seventh session. The results of the deliberations of the Commission on Human Rights are reflected in its resolution 1991/20 of 1 March 1991 by which the Commission, inter alia, endorsed the continuing efforts aimed at streamlining, rationalizing and otherwise improving reporting procedures by the treaty bodies and the Secretary-General within their respective spheres of competence; welcomed the conclusions and recommendations with regard to the better functioning of the treaty bodies contained in the study on possible long-term approaches to enhancing the effective operation of existing and prospective bodies established under United Nations human rights instruments; endorsed the recommendation of the third meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies to institutionalize the meetings and requested the General Assembly to take appropriate action to enable these meetings to be held on a biennial basis; requested the Secretary-General to give

consideration to the proposal, endorsed by the second and third meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies and by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to establish a committee resource room for the purpose of gathering and facilitating access to the various sources of information that are indispensable for the effective functioning of the various treaty bodies; urged States parties to make every effort to meet their reporting obligations and to contribute, individually and through meetings of States parties, to identifying and implementing ways of further streamlining and improving reporting procedures; invited meetings of States parties to consider ways and means of strengthening the collection of contributions and of making procedures more effective and, if necessary, to reconsider the position of States parties that are substantially in default of their assessed contributions; requested the General Assembly to mandate the Secretary-General to take the appropriate steps in order to finance the meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies from the available resources of the regular budget of the United Nations, when necessary, with the proviso that reimbursement shall eventually be made in every instance from the contributions of States parties to those conventions or from other appropriate sources; reiterated its conviction that in standard-setting every effort should be made to maximize normative consistency and that any new standards should take full account of the factors enumerated in General Assembly resolution 41/120 of 4 December 1986; and urged the Secretary-General to expedite the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on computerization as soon as possible by requesting Member States, in particular States that are parties to various human rights instruments, to make generous voluntary contributions to cover the initial one-time cost of the proposed system.

3. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 45/85, and as recommended by the Commission on Human Rights and by the Task Force on computerization of the work of the treaty bodies relating to reporting, the Secretary-General intends, in the near future, to invite Member States to make voluntary contributions to cover the initial one-time installation cost of the computerized database that is to be established to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the functioning of the treaty bodies. Additionally, pursuant to paragraph 6 of the resolution, the detailed reporting manual designed to assist States in fulfilling their reporting obligations has been printed in English and has been made available in that language. The Secretary-General intends to circulate versions of the manual in the other required languages as soon as they become available. Further, pursuant to paragraph 15 of the same resolution, the Secretary-General plans to convene the fourth meeting of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies during the second semester of 1992.

4. With reference to paragraph 12 of resolution 45/85, in which the General Assembly requested that administrative and budgetary measures be considered to alleviate the current financial difficulties of the treaty bodies in order to guarantee the regular functioning, and with further reference to paragraph 7 of resolution 45/88, in which the Secretary-General was requested to seek to obtain, at the earliest opportunity, the concurrence of the States parties to

the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to the establishment of a "contingency reserve fund", the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 14 May 1991, has transmitted to the States concerned an aide-memoire outlining the relevant modalities for addressing the current financial problems of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The suggested arrangement envisages that, on a collective basis, any credit resulting from a lower level of actual expenditures that was initially anticipated for the previous year would not be applied against the assessment for the subsequent year but would be retained. The level of cash accumulated through such a procedure would not be allowed to exceed the estimated costs of two annual sessions of the Committee. A number of responses to this proposal from concerned States have already been received and it is planned to include, if necessary to finalize the matter, a relevant item on the agenda of the fourteenth meeting of the States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to be held in January 1992.

5. In accordance with the General Assembly's request, contained in paragraph 9 (a) of resolution 45/85, the Secretary-General has reviewed the need for adequate staffing resources in regard to the various treaty bodies. Relevant information on this question is included in the final report concerning the human resources required by the Centre for Human Rights as a whole to carry out its functions adequately, which the Secretary-General was requested, in paragraph 3 of resolution 45/180, to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

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ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Right to development

Note by the Secretary-General

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/97 of 14 December 1990, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Assembly the "Comprehensive report of the Secretary-General prepared in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1990/18". The report is contained in document E/CN.4/1991/12 and Add.1.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS AND POLICIES AGREED UPON IN THE DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, IN PARTICULAR THE REVITALIZATION OF THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 45/234 of 21 December 1991, the General Assembly, after reaffirming its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, the annex to which contains the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forty-sixth session a report on the steps taken by the Governments of developed and developing countries, individually and collectively, as well as by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to fulfil those commitments and policies, taking into account Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/54 of 24 July 1990.

2. In that resolution, the Council had recommended to the governing bodies of the organs and organizations of the United Nations system that they include in their agendas the question of the implementation of the Declaration and invited them to report to the Council, at its second regular session of 1991, on steps taken by them and by Governments within their respective spheres of competence, with a view to ensuring the implementation of the Declaration.

3. On 4 March 1991, a note verbale from the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation was sent to the executive heads of the organs and organizations of the United Nations system and to Governments with a request for information on the implementation of the Declaration. The replies of organs and organizations of the United Nations system were submitted to the Council at its second regular session of 1991 in a note by the Secretary-General (E/1991/96). The substantive portions of the replies of Governments are reproduced in the annex to the present report. Further replies will be circulated as addenda to the present document.

ANNEX

Replies received from Governments

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ARGENTINA

[Original: Spanish]

[25 April 1991]

See A/46/159, annex.

AUSTRIA

[Original: English]

[15 May 1991]

1. With regard to paragraphs 25 and 27 of General Assembly resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990:

(a) In accordance with the new priorities of the 1990s as defined by the high-level meeting of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in December 1989 the Austrian Programme for Development Cooperation will focus on the following areas: poverty alleviation; satisfaction of basic human needs; human resources development; institution-building; protection of the environment and assistance for an environmentally sustainable use of natural resources; women in development process; strengthening of domestic entrepreneurship; agriculture and rural development; and development of infrastructure.

(b) The Austrian Government maintains its political commitment to reach the official development assistance (ODA) target of 0.7 per cent. Due to considerable efforts the ODA/GNP ratio for 1990 will reach the 0.25 per cent level after a set-back in 1989 to 0.23 per cent and an absolute minimum level of 0.17 per cent in 1987.

(c) Within available budgetary resources Austria is committed to further improve significantly the composition, volume and quality of its ODA to developing countries. Particular emphasis will be given in this context and in accordance with the policy guidelines of the international community to the least developed countries. New challenges due to recent developments like the Gulf Crisis and the tragedy of the Kurdish and other refugees as well as the political changes in Central and Eastern Europe require additional means and should not be resolved to the detriment of international development cooperation efforts in general.

2. With regard to paragraph 35 of resolution S-18/3:

(a) Austria actively supports the Eastern European countries in their efforts towards comprehensive economic reform and structural adjustment and provides financial (macro-economic) assistance as well as humanitarian, material and technical aid.

(b) Within the framework of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Austria participates in negotiations with Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary in view of concluding free trade agreements.

BELARUS

[Original: Russian]

[10 May 1991]

1. The adoption by consensus of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly was made possible by the realization that further economic and social development of the world community will occur in conditions of growing interdependence of the world, thereby, in turn, contributing to the creation of an atmosphere of mutual responsibility for resolving the global problems facing mankind.

2. The Byelorussian SSR attaches particular importance to the consensus approach to the problem of Eastern Europe adopted in the Declaration. The appeal in the Declaration for assistance to the Eastern European countries in their efforts to integrate themselves into the world economic system was reflected in the legislation adopted by the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR, which is directed at the national economy of the Republic in its transition to a market economy and at independent management of external economic affairs. Laws and regulations have already been adopted, or soon will be adopted, concerning external economic affairs, foreign investments, currency control and regulations, licensing of external trade, customs, entrepreneurship, privatization and other matters.

3. The Byelorussian SSR greatly values the provisions of the Declaration linking strong support for the efforts of the developing countries to solve their economic and social problems with each country's responsibility for its own economic policies, which need to take fully into account its obligations with respect to international economic cooperation. This opens up real prospects for the harmonious integration of national economies into the world economy and their adaptation to change in international economic life.

4. The Byelorussian SSR also supports the priority given in the Declaration to resolving the problems of the world economy, namely, surmounting the external debt crisis and dealing with the current escalation of abject poverty in the developing countries. These aims can be achieved only by safeguarding the interests of all countries and regions and involving them harmoniously in the entire range of multilateral social, economic, trade, scientific and technical relations. The Byelorussian SSR attaches great significance to the fact that the Declaration maintains political pressure on Member States and also on the Organization, aimed at inducing all sides to adopt effective measures to preserve and improve the environment, and it hopes that the ecological thrust of the Declaration, having been strengthened in the international development strategy, will yield tangible results for the benefit of all mankind.

5. One of the basic principles of collaboration between the Byelorussian SSR and the developing countries is that the collaboration is a vitally important factor in accelerating their social and economic development.

6. The Byelorussian SSR provides the developing countries with comprehensive assistance and support in developing the economy, elaborating scientific and technical policies and organizing research and development and the applications thereof.

7. The transfer of scientific and technical achievements of the Byelorussian SSR to the developing countries and the latter's utilization of the knowledge received helps these countries to expand their economic, scientific and technical potential, to set up the best national economic structures, capable not only of adapting foreign technology but also of creating and organizing their own and of making better use of their internal resources and reserves for economic growth.

8. At the present time, cooperation between the Byelorussian SSR and foreign countries is taking place primarily within the framework of intergovernmental agreements and long-term programmes of economic, trade, scientific and technical cooperation.

9. Agreements concerning economic, scientific and technical cooperation contain provisions relating to the exchange of delegations, individual specialists and experts, scientific and technical information and documentation, to the organization of conferences, seminars and exhibitions, to conditions for the transfer of technology, projects and experience, to methods of working together to resolve national economic problems, and to forms and conditions regarding specialist training.

10. The machinery for direct relations with foreign countries, particularly developing countries, ensures that these relations are long term and stable in nature, and lay the foundation for the elaboration and subsequent execution of long-term arrangements for the development of comprehensive cooperation and for effective utilization of the results thereof.

11. Cooperation between the Byelorussian SSR and the developing countries is founded on the principles of full equality and mutual advantage. This means that the Byelorussian SSR and its partners in international cooperation act as equals, irrespective of the size of their economy, their social system or their level of economic, scientific and technical development.

12. Assistance in developing the intellectual potential of the developing countries and creating the material basis for their development plays an important role in this cooperation.

13. The transition to market relations in the Byelorussian SSR offers extensive possibilities for more active cooperation by individual Byelorussian enterprises, institutions and educational establishments with potential foreign counterparts.

14. Among the main forms of cooperation between the Byelorussian SSR and the developing countries, mention may be made of: the transfer of experience and know-how; the creation of industrial potential and of economic, scientific and technical infrastructure and systems of education; the transfer of technology; engineering-consultative services; joint research and projects; and the education and training of key personnel in the Byelorussian SSR.

15. In addition, other forms of cooperation, such as the exchange of scientific and technical information, the exchange of specialists, scientific probationerships, symposia, seminars, conferences and so forth, have become widespread.

16. For example, in 1990 the Seventh International Conference on Thermal Tubing was held at the Institute of Heat and Mass Transfer of the Academy of Sciences of the Byelorussian SSR, thus continuing the long-standing tradition of holding such events in the Byelorussian SSR in the context of multilateral international cooperation with the participation of specialists from many regions of the world, including dozens of developing countries.

17. Every year, within the system of the Byelorussian Ministry of Education about a thousand specialists and highly qualified workers from over 70 countries are trained, some 7,000 foreign nationals continue their education, 25 higher educational establishments and departments of education have direct cooperation agreements with 56 educational establishments, enterprises and firms in 11 foreign countries, and within the framework of this cooperation over 200 subjects are studied; recently, under the auspices of the Academy of Sciences of the Byelorussian SSR, 30 scientific establishments carried out research on a total of 132 problems jointly with 120 establishments in foreign countries, including a number of developing States.

18. Active mutually beneficial cooperation with young States is exemplified by the varied bilateral economic and foreign-trade links between the Byelorussian SSR and countries on the African continent, in the course of which enterprises and organizations in the Byelorussian SSR devote much attention to questions of the appropriate scientific and technical back-up, technical services and specialist training. For example, a number of specialists in tractor manufacture were sent on an official mission to Ethiopia (aspects of the training of the corresponding key personnel for Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Zimbabwe are under discussion).

19. Cooperation has been established with developing countries in the fields of machine-tool construction and electric energy (India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nigeria, the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, Angola, Guinea, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Algeria). Assistance is also being provided for irrigation work (Algeria, Madagascar), for the development of national geodesic and cartographical services (Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique), and so forth.

20. Electrical installation parts, which are vital for the assembly of industrial plants in the third world, are being supplied by Byelorussian

enterprises to Nigeria, Viet Nam, Mongolia, Ethiopia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Cuba and other developing States to which Byelorussian exports of such goods are mainly directed.

21. One further example of compliance by the Byelorussian SSR with the provisions of the Declaration is the increase in the scale of cooperation between the Byelorussian SSR and India.

22. In accordance with the integrated long-term technical-cooperation programme between the USSR and India, an agreement has been signed for the establishment and operation of a joint Soviet-Indian Powder Metallurgy Centre, a participant in which is the Byelorussian Scientific and Industrial Powder Metallurgy Combine.

23. The Institute of Heat and Mass Transfer of the Academy of Sciences of the Byelorussian SSR cooperates with the Department of Industrial Chemistry of Bombay University, the Department of Chemical Engineering of the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, the Technology Faculty of Anna University in Madras and other Indian scientific establishments on the subject of mass transfer, including the reprocessing of chemical industry waste.

24. The restructuring of the overseas economic activities of the Republic creates the conditions required for the further development and improvement of all-round cooperation between the Byelorussian SSR and foreign countries, including developing countries, provides the means of making it more effective and mutually advantageous and makes a positive contribution to improving the world political and economic situation, which is an important factor in the scientific, technical and socio-economic progress of States that have gained their freedom.

COLOMBIA

[Original: Spanish]

[15 April 1991]

1. Acting in accordance with the spirit and the letter of the Declaration adopted at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly, in particular paragraph 23 thereof, the Government of Colombia has introduced fundamental reforms in both the economic and the social spheres. These reforms, which are part of a general strategy designed to internationalize the Colombian economy, are aimed at: opening up the economy; modernizing the productive infrastructure; privatizing State enterprises and the port system; and rationalizing other public bodies.

2. With a view to launching a structural reform of the public sector, the Government allocated $US 150 million to the privatization of companies belonging to the Industrial Development Institute. It also authorized a

credit of $US 300 million to enable private sector companies to import capital goods that would help to increase their productive capacity. These resources will come from existing budgetary funds and are not part of the credits currently being negotiated by the Government with foreign commercial banks.

3. Decisive steps have been taken to open up international trade. For example, tariff barriers have been considerably reduced and non-tariff barriers have been removed. In order to stimulate the opening-up process and encourage foreign and domestic investment, new regulations have been drawn up in three particularly important areas:

Reform of the Labour Code

4. The three main changes made to the Colombian Labour Code are as follows: reform of the retirement pension; a change in the job security rules for workers who hold contracts for more than 10 years; and the introduction of the system of total remuneration.

5. These changes were the subject of intense debate for over 15 years. Only now have circumstances arisen that allow work standards to be adapted to a more open and competitive economic system.

Reforms to the foreign exchange law

6. Decree law No. 444 of 1968, which was the basic law governing Colombian external trade and foreign exchange policy, has been repealed.

7. This law, which was the cornerstone of strict control over foreign exchange operations, was also the means of introducing the practice of constant devaluation, which Colombia used continuously following its adoption. This made it possible to keep the exchange rate up to date in real terms and to promote the growth of exports. At the same time, Decree No. 444 was the basis for decision No. 24 of the Andean Pact, which imposed strict control on the repatriation of capital and profits from member countries. The Decree specified the sectors of the economy, in particular oil, mining, finance and trade which were restricted for foreign investment. It also established that foreign investors should not have access to long-term domestic credit.

8. The new rules incorporated in Law No. 90 of 1991 set forth the following provisions:

(a) All Colombians may conduct financial transactions in foreign currency in Colombian territory. They may also invest freely abroad. An amnesty has been declared for anyone who contravened the exchange regulations prior to September 1990.

(b) Foreign investors are now authorized to repatriate their capital and remit profits, subject to specific regulations. They will have the same rights as Colombian investors and the Government has undertaken not to change the rules regarding foreign investment in any way that might be detrimental to foreign investors.

(c) There will be a free market in gold. This abolishes the Central Bank's control and monopoly.

(d) The market in coffee has also been liberalized and relations between the State and the National Coffee Fund have been reformed.

(e) International insurance companies may henceforth conduct business in Colombia in foreign currency.

Reform of the rules for foreign investment

9. The Government has set a body of standards, closely linked to Law No. 90 of 1991, which cover all matters related to foreign investment.

10. The main aspects of this new investment code are as follows:

(a) Foreign investment is permitted in all sectors of the economy except in areas relating to national security and defence and the disposal of nuclear and toxic wastes. In some public services, such as electricity, water supply, public health, telecommunications, television and radio, the approval of the National Planning Department is required before a foreign investment can be carried out.

(b) Foreign investment is permitted in the financial sector. Such investment may amount to 100 per cent of the property of Colombian financial institutions.

(c) The Colombian oil company, ECOPETROL, will be the only organization permitted to invest in gas and oil exploration. ECOPETROL may, however, promote agreements with foreign companies for oil and gas exploration, exploitation, processing and transport.

11. Apart from all the foregoing, the Colombian Government has also adopted strict monetary and financial control measures aimed at substantially reducing the process of inflation. It is estimated that inflation will be limited to between 22 and 25 per cent in the current year.

12. In the fiscal field, reforms have been made to the value added tax, and a process of modernizing and updating the taxation system is being pursued, aimed basically at improving tax collection.

13. Concurrently with these economic measures, the Colombian Government has placed particular emphasis on all areas concerned with improving the health, education and labour services, especially for the underprivileged sectors. More budgetary resources have been allocated to the Ministries of Health and Education to enable them to proceed with a greater number of programmes concerned with the expansion and improvement of water supplies, low and intermediate levels of training, family guidance and general assistance.

FINLAND

[Original: English]

[15 April 1991]

1. The Finnish Government considers implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, as a major effort to achieve global progress in economic development. Genuine dialogue and common perceptions achieved by the adoption of the Declaration mark a major step forward which were subsequently incorporated into the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.

2. In the fields especially mentioned in the Declaration, emphasis by the Government of Finland has been on sustainable development, on the least developed countries and on human resources development. The Finnish Government also considers that in the broad sense of human development in vital principles of democracy, human rights and popular participation of both men and women must be placed high on the agenda of national policies. Good governance is an example how these principles can be promoted and made operative.

3. The orientation provided by the Declaration for national and international policies, bilateral and multilateral development cooperation serves as a general framework also for Finnish development cooperation.

4. A number of specific action-oriented aspects of the Declaration are subject to intergovernmental deliberations at the United Nations system organizations as well as elsewhere where national and international development cooperation policies are discussed. With both its bilateral and its multilateral development aid, Finland wishes to contribute towards solving global problems related to population, environment and to the advancement of women.

JAMAICA

[Original: English]

[1 May 1991]

1. The Government of Jamaica states as its main objective its commitment to the realization of the qualitative improvement in the lives of its citizens in their economic, social, and cultural endeavours. To assist in attaining this objective it pursues policies that, inter alia, influence positively the market for real output, the money market as well as the labour market.

2. Recognizing, however, the necessity to adjust the economy structurally Jamaica has had to adopt certain measures to meet this end. This, together with limited resource availability and the growth of resources over time, has constrained the Government to plan only within a short/medium-term framework.

Framework

1. Economic targets:

(a) To set the economy on a trend growth path that is above the trend growth path of its population;

(b) To improve the resiliency of growth trends to the effects of exogenous shocks;

(c) To improve the domestic savings rate so as to increase the participation of domestic private investment in economic output;

(d) To diversify the economic base and increase the influence of economic competition;

(e) To control the rate of expansion of external debt while pursuing available options for its reduction over time;

(f) To diversify the export base and to achieve and maintain international competitiveness in that area of endeavour;

(g) To reorient consumption patterns so as to generate greater self-sufficiency in production;

(h) To emphasize fiscal prudence as a benchmark of budgetary performance.

2. Scientific and technical emphases:

(a) The reformulation and implementation of a coherent and consistent policy for technological advancement;

(b) To allow the educational and training system to advance technology as the basis for economic and social transformation;

(c) To advance scientific and technological career paths through the financial incentives of an administration reform programme;

(d) To link the public and private sectors in projects involving research and development.

3. Administrative reform programme: to use financial resources to attract the type of skills that will strengthen the management capabilities of the public sector.

4. Social development focus:

(a) To seek to realize compatibility of the employment growth rate and that of the labour force;

(b) To improve the physical infrastructure and level of housing to sustain economic and social development;

(c) To emphasize the provision of education as a central policy of Government;

(d) To achieve and sustain lasting improvement in human resource development;

(e) To improve and sustain a reasonable level of basic social services;

(f) To implement workable programmes for rural and community development;

(g) To protect the integrity of the environment, to revise environmental degradation, to sustain the viability of the ecosystem;

(h) To formulate and implement programmes for the full integration of women and youth into national life.

Planning profile

3. The planning process began with the preparation of the "Jamaica Five Year Development Plan 1990-1995", which was published by The Planning Institute of Jamaica in July 1990. This document set out the Government's policy profile, the planning environment, and the areas of concern to policy planners. The "Five Year Development Plan" is monitored by a "Plan Secretariat", which undertakes periodic assessment of the policies promulgated, the policies implemented and unforseen constraints on the full implementation of the Plan as outlined.

4. Guided by IMF/World Bank/USAID conditionalities, the Plan operates within a "core" framework of economic policies - defined by a policy document called "the Jamaica Medium-Term Economic Policy". This "core" document incorporates targets of economic performance for 1991/1995 with a given resource flow.

5. The planning profile is placed within an environment constrained by the need to prioritize policy emphases. While the needs of the social sector are well documented and the urgency of those needs understood, emphases of the Plan realize that the resources do not exist to address simultaneously all of these needs and those on the economic front. Therefore the focus of policy in the 1990/1991 period was underlined by a high degree of prioritization.

A. Economic emphases

6. It was accepted that sustained social progress cannot be realized except through financing from the economic base. In the short run, foreign financing can be substituted but the uncertainties associated with these flows and the impact of the existing level of external debt accentuates the negatives. Therefore, it is the performance of the domestic economy that comes into relief.

7. As a result of this reality, economic growth was prioritized as a policy emphasis. In this regards:

(a) Fiscal incentives, interest ranges, and accelerated privatization (deregulation) policies were introduced in order to:

(i) Invigorate private investment flows;

(ii) Stimulate an expansion in domestic savings;

(iii) Diversify domestic production and stimulate export expansion;

(iv) Widen the "stock" of private capital in economic activity;

(v) Expand the width, depth and resiliency of economic competition;

(b) Qualitative shifts were introduced in the management of portfolio. Hence, there was the beginning of the process of a progressive reduction in the size of the fiscal deficit:

(i) Fiscal expenditures were being brought in line with fiscal revenues;

(ii) The provision of economic services by the State began to attract user fees commensurate with the services provided;

(iii) The tax base was widened and modernized;

(iv) A programme of administrative reforms was undertaken to entice a wider range of skills and a higher level of management expertise to the public sector;

(v) Changes in the bureaucracy of the public sector in order to improve the delivery of public sector services;

(vi) Prioritization of public investment in order to improve the social and economic returns to public investment, and to improve the maintenance and expansion of the economic infrastructure;

(c) The continued liberalization of import controls, exchange controls, and other controls in the money market:

(i) Imports restrictions have been progressively liberalized so that only a narrow range of economically strategic items remain under quantitative restrictions;

(ii) The process of the dismantlement of the exchange control laws have begun. Therefore, investment capital flows are subjected to less administrative inputs and the whims of the State bureaucracy;

(iii) Monetary policy has begun to show less reliance on the need to facilitate fiscal policy and the money market assumes greater independence in its financial functions;

(d) Wages and price policies have begun to reflect the demand/supply conditions of aggregate economic activity:

(i) Wage guideline policies are currently in effect. However, current policy reassessment in this area is poised towards progressive liberalization of wage controls so as to ensure that the price of labour reflect the employment/unemployment mix in the labour market;

(ii) Price decontrol has been accelerated and subsidies have been subjected to phased removal.

8. External trade policies have been pursued on three fronts. On the trading relations front:

(a) There has been increased activity in the reassessment of Jamaica's trading performance and concessions owing to developments in Europe. Emphasis has been placed on the realization of commitments from major trading partners, as existing arrangements will not be threatened by current developments, and on concessions of continued commitments to current understandings on future arrangements;

(b) Efforts have been redoubled to advance the early application of common commitments to the CARICOM (Caribben Common Market) areas. In this regard steps have been taken to institute the Common Agreement on Tariffs (CET), to establish a Caribben stock exchange, and to accelerate the pace of the movements towards the complete integration of Caribbean markets;

(c) There has been a series of steps that have been taken to diversify exports, expand export earnings, and increase the competitiveness of export. These include improved export incentives, devaluations, a strengthening of the export promotions agency and its clientele of marketing network, and revitalization of export financing schemes improvements in the working relationship between the export sector and the public sector.

9. External debt management have been pursued on several fronts:

(a) Improvements have been made in debt monitoring procedures, and new debt contraction has become the subject of tight procedures;

(b) There has been active pursuit of rescheduling arrangements;

(c) Debt buy-back schemes have been developed; debt-for-equity schemes implemented;

(d) Tight controls have been set on the movement of the current account deficit;

(e) Debt deferrals and debt-forgiveness on a bilateral basis are being actively pursued;

(f) The maintenance of debt servicing.

B. Social emphases

10. On the social front, prioritization has been the operative word. It is accepted that the economic factors support the social need. However, the social infrastructure supports the economic efforts. It is this simultaneity of relationships that gave rise to the balanced prioritization of social and economic policy, given the resource constraints that obtains and the applicable conditionalities associated with the IMF/World Bank/USAID arrangements.

11. Plans have been developed and are at various stages of implementation with regard to:

1. Education

(a) Pre-primary education: institutionalize a standard curriculum for basic schools; improve basic schools supervision, the quality of teaching staff, the physical infrastructure, and the nutritional status of pupils; and rationalize the teacher/pupil ratio;

(b) Primary education: provide equal educational opportunities for the projected involvement in primary education; improve the attendance ratio by at least 85 per cent; and improve the quality of primary education as measured by improved literacy, numeracy, learning and social skills;

(c) Secondary education: provide equal and improved opportunities in secondary education through rationalization of the programmes and the expansion of school places; improve the management of the school system through greater accountability and decentralization; and rationalization of the standards relating to qualifications, teacher/pupil ratios, physical facility and financial support;

(d) Tertiary education: establish a council for tertiary education and community colleges; introduction of the "semester system" at the University of the West Indies; strengthen the management and computer studies at tertiary institutions; improve the curriculum and teaching facilities of teachers' colleges; and expand and upgrade the professional compatibilities of the College of Arts, Science and Technology;

(e) Literacy and adult education: strengthen and expand adult literacy programme to attain full functional literacy by the year 2000; encourage/assist adult education agencies to incorporate into their programmes the value systems of good citizenship; and fully integrate occupational skills training, so that participants can gain access to marketable skills.

2. Health

(a) Provide increased financing for health delivery services;

(b) Upgrade the management of the health system, reduce attrition rate of health personnel;

(c) Expedite the drafting of legislations relating to health care;

(d) Restore health care infrastructure to an adequate level of functioning;

(e) Increase the level of cooperation between the private sector and the public sector in the delivery of health care.

3. Housing

(a) Expand the opportunities for house ownership to all income groups, especially among lower-income levels;

(b) Expand the cooperation of the public and private sector in the provision of houses;

(c) Provide housing solutions aimed at a target of 15,000 houses and 9,700 upgraded settlements per annum.

4. Social security and welfare

(a) To modernize and improve the machinery for the administration of social security and welfare programmes;

(b) To improve the coverage for contributions to the National Insurance Scheme (NIS), improve the attractiveness of pensions, provide assistance to various categories of potential beneficiaries to become independent of the State;

(c) Expand the coverage of facilities available for the disabled, especially children and those up to 18 years old;

(d) Raise the contribution ceiling from the present J$ 7,800 to J$ 15,080 during 1991/1992;

(e) Provide for sickness benefits, reduce the eligible age for national insurance from 65 years to 60 years;

(f) Provide for NIS funds to operate on regular actuarial reviews and advice in terms of the financial administration and investment of the Fund.

5. National security

(a) Rationalize the machinery for the administration of justice;

(b) Increase skills training for the security forces, increased mobility of security personnel;

(c) Improve the number and capabilities of the personnel administrating the justice system.

6. Physical infrastructure

(a) Energy and electricity: reduced dependencies on oil imports through increased utilization of domestic energy sources; upgrade and expand the capacity of the national oil refinery so as to maximize foreign exchange earnings; rationalization of the management of the energy sector in order to facilitate planning and control; increase the efficiency of the electricity generating company; and diversify the inputs for electricity generation.

(b) Transport and communications:

(i) Ground transport: the expansion of the number and the acquisition of large buses for high density routes; improvement of the monitoring and regulation of the public transport system, and encouragement of the development of cooperation to improve management and accountability; and extensive expansion in the road network, expansion of upkeep services, and improvement in the bridge maintenance activity.

(ii) Air transport: Air Jamaica will begin to operate on a strictly commercial basis; divestment of significant amounts of the Air Jamaica shares will be undertaken; and Trans-Jamaican Airlines will be made financially viable through greater efficiency.

(iii) Ports: to develop, expand, upgrade, modernize port facilities;

(iv) Communications: increased privatization of the communications systems so as to improve management, technology and financing;

(c) Domestic water supplies and storage: to increase the population supplied by potable water from 75 per cent to 85-90 per cent; to reduce the percentage of water losses, control environmental degradation in watershed areas, improve the effluency of water plants and sewage plants; and to improve the managerial and financial capabilities of the national water commission.

12. Overall, the emphases in the social sector are complementary to the policies directed at economic growth. Therefore, the prioritization of policies ensures that growth exerts a pull-effect on the development objectives.

LUXEMBOURG

(on behalf of the States members of the
European Community)

[Original: English]

[12 June 1991]

1. International economic cooperation

1. By its weight on the international economic scene and by the important changes that are currently being carried out to its internal economic structures, the European Community and its member States contribute very positively to the major macroeconomic objectives set out in the Declaration.

2. The Community considers that in order to revitalize growth and development in the developing countries and to address the problems of poverty and hunger, the international community has a responsibility to support the developing countries in their efforts to solve their problems, through the creation of a favourable international economic environment. In an increasingly interdependent world both the international and the national policy frameworks must be adequate to the task. Sound national policies remain indispensable for the economic development of developing countries.

3. In this cooperation framework and in the current world economic situation, a common view has developed, actively supported by the Community, on the need to pursue anti-inflationary policies and on the need to increase global savings and reduce deficits. In particular, on this latter point, the Community's view is that a rise in world savings, which is highly desirable to sustain and enhance economic growth, will have to be generated predominantly in the industrial world and that the most straightforward way to do this is to improve public sector saving.

4. The coordination process of the economic policy of the Group of 7 highly industrialized countries, adopted in 1986 and strengthened in 1987, has focused on improving exchange rate stability, while keeping in mind that any attempt to influence the pattern of exchange rates should be consistent with the overall economic strategy and should not be seen as a substitute for action regarding fundamentals. Despite recent periods of financial instability and of economic uncertainties, large fluctuations in exchange rates have been avoided and external imbalances reduced.

5. Within the Community, the exchange rate mechanism (EMS) have been an important instrument that has contributed to a high degree of convergence and stability. The Community's own macroeconomic cooperation framework is now progressively being reinforced. The aim of all the major Community initiatives now under way - completing the internal market, strengthening economic and social cohesion and the attainment by stages of economic and monetary union - is to improve the growth prospects of the Community through a

better use of resources. The Single Market exercise will improve growth and trade prospects while the greater convergence of economic and monetary policy will contribute to greater stability in the global economic environment.

6. In the implementation of the evolving debt management strategy a number of proposals have been made by certain member States of the Community.

2. International trade

7. The European Community attaches great importance to the strengthening of the multilateral trading system and avoiding its erosion. A successful and timely completion of the Uruguay Round is an important step towards the maintenance of this system. The Community has participated very actively in the Uruguay Round negotiations and has made offers of liberalization across a wide range of issues and sectors including some of particular significance for developing countries, for example in regard to tropical and agricultural products and in regard to textiles where the aim is ultimately to phase out the Multifibre Arrangement.

8. The Community has also made substantial additional trade concessions in the context of the Lomé IV Convention concerning a range of products of particular interest to the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) countries. At the same time, the Community recognizes the importance of the Generalized Special Preference System (GSP) as a trade policy instrument. The Community is currently reviewing its GSP system with the view to simplifying and stabilizing it and has improved from 1991 onwards the product coverage of agricultural products. It has also recently extended zero duty rating to the exports of the countries of the Andean Pact with a view to helping them in the war against illicit drug production.

9. Equally, for the non-ACP least developed countries the Community remains committed to a STABEX inspired system of compensation for export earnings losses due to price changes. As regards commodities, it is worthwhile to recall that the Lomé IV Convention, concluded at the end of 1989, contains improved STABEX and SYSMIN provisions. As regards STABEX, new products have been included, dependency thresholds have been reduced, while all transfers will be made on a grant basis to all countries, and no longer only to the least developed among them. Furthermore, the financial provisions for STABEX and SYSMIN have been increased considerably. In the case of STABEX by 82 per cent, becoming ECU 1,500 million or approximately $1.7 billion for a five-year period and in the case of SYSMIN by 15 per cent, reaching ECU 480 million.

10. In the context of the creation of the Single Market scheduled to come to effect in 1993, it will be considerably easier for exporters to the market to operate therein. Moreover, the expected increase of growth in the Community will increase market opportunities considerably. These advantages will accrue to all exporters to the Community including developing countries.

3. Development cooperation

11. The Community and its member States are particularly active in the field of development assistance and these development policies are continuously evolving in order to meet fresh challenges and situations.

12. One of the main instruments of the Community policy is the Lomé Convention. This Convention was renewed for the fourth time in December 1989 and involved 69 ACP countries, including all the developing countries of sub-Saharan Africa. The new Convention has a budget of ECU 12 billion for the period 1990 to 1995, which represents a nominal increase of 40 per cent on Lomé III and a 25 per cent real increase. In addition to extending and improving the operations of previous conventions, for example in regard to trade coverage and the stabilization system for export earnings, the Convention renews its emphasis on rural development and on the development of human resources. A new emphasis is put on demography, environment and the promotion of small businesses and private investment. It also contains more flexible financing in particular for structural adjustment purposes.

13. The Community has also renewed its Mediterranean policy in a manner which has stepped up its financial commitments substantially both in terms of external financing, especially private financing, and on more sustained measures to promote food self-sufficiency, training and regional integration.

14. Renewals of the financial protocol with the Maghreb and Mashreq have increased resources by 40 per cent to ECU 2.375 billion. Financial and technical cooperation has also substantially increased and the European Investment Bank's loan facilities have been enlarged to ECU 2.8 billion. There have also been substantial improvements in trade concessions, with total exemption for certain import duties and increased quotas for sensitive products. Structural adjustment and environmental operations will also be given additional support.

15. In December 1990, the European Community also adopted new guidelines for its cooperation with developing countries in Latin America and Asia, and has adopted six areas for action such as the rural sector, protection of the environment, human resources, etc. The budget for its assistance has increased to ECU 2.75 billion and this represents an increase of about 200 per cent.

16. The member States of the Community have substantial development assistance programmes to a value of ECU 20.5 billion or $22.5 billion in 1989. They recognize that given the immense development task that lies ahead, and given the efforts at democratization and reform of economic policies being undertaken in developing countries, a bigger effort will be required from donors both quantitatively and qualitatively.

17. The Community and its member States are firmly committed to the provision of development assistance and the substantial recent increases in volume

underline this commitment. The Community and its member States are also aiming at a closer coordination of their aid efforts in order to improve their quality and effectiveness. The urgent requirements for capital and assistance in other areas of the world will not undermine this commitment.

18. The Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries also set out guidelines and parameters for aid to the least developed countries and the Community and its member States will seek to implement these commitments which recognize the shared responsibility and strengthened partnership in the growth of the least developed countries. The Community as a whole already gives 0.13 per cent of its GNP to the least developed countries and will increase this amount beyond 0.15 per cent before the end of the decade. Some member States have already exceeded this 0.15 per cent.

4. Good governance and human rights

19. The Declaration clearly recognizes the relationship between economic performance and development, on the one hand, and, on the other, open and accountable government, human development including the respect for the fundamental freedoms of the individual and his right to participate in decision-making as well as in the sharing of the fruits of development.

20. The accountability of Governments to their citizens is an important guarantee of human rights and democracy.

21. The Community and its member States are concerned that full economic potential and efficient sustainable development cannot be achieved in the absence of good government with broadly based participation in economic, social and political activities. The full utilization of human resources is moreover based on the full recognition of human rights.

22. The Community and its member States are committed to the promotion of human rights through dialogue and cooperation and other appropriate means. They are also committed to the promotion of more open, participatory and more efficient government based on freedom and human rights for the better utilization of human resources, public institutions and respect for the rule of law.

23. The foundations of a deep-rooted and lasting democracy should spring from initiatives of the local population itself. The Community's priority is to help the developing countries accede to democracy which gives all sections of the population equitable access to economic resources and a greater role in development.

5. Environment

24. The Community and its member States are fully conscious of the environmental dangers and challenges facing the planet today and have committed themselves to a very complete programme of action to meet these challenges both within the Community and with our international partners.

25. The European Community and its 12 member States fully support the view that emissions resulting from human activities are substantially increasing the atmospheric concentrations of the greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide, methane, chloroflourocarbons (CFCs) and nitrous oxide, and that these increases will enhance the greenhouse effect resulting on average in an additional warming of the Earth's surface. It is the Community's view that the absence at present of full understanding of the complexity of the scientific interconnections involved should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to combat climate change.

26. The European Community and member States have committed themselves in October 1990 to take actions aimed at stabilizing total carbon dioxide emissions by 2000 at 1990 level in the Community as a whole. In December 1990, the European Community and member States approved a specific calendar for reducing and eliminating the production and use of ozone-depleting substances. In the case of CFCs in particular, an early elimination by 1 July 1997 was approved while the revised Montreal Protocol envisaged elimination by the year 2000.

27. The Community and its member States are contributing to the negotiations on climate and to the work proceeding on a biodiversity convention and to the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in which progress has also to be made in forestry.

28. The process itself is of course a broader one and the Community and its member States will be active throughout it as it is seeking to achieve goals which often correspond to goals we are pursuing within the Community. The Community and its member States are paying particular attention in the preparatory process for the Conference to the important and interrelated issues of transfer of environmentally sound technology, funding and environmental institutions.

6. Relations with Eastern Europe

29. The policy of the Community and its member States toward East European countries has sought to be as supportive as possible in the difficult period of economic transition through which they are currently passing.

30. It has been based on a series of initiatives:

(a) The unilateral reduction and elimination of a series of restrictions on trade with Eastern Europe;

(b) The negotiation of a series of trade and cooperation agreements with all the East European countries and the USSR, which have already led to an increase of imports from this region;

(c) A series of "association" or second generation agreements which are currently being negotiated with Poland, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and Hungary;

(d) Increased assistance through the European Community's PHARE programme and the G24 exercise which is being administered by the European Community Commission. The priorities of the PHARE programme are agriculture, industry, investment, energy, training (The European Training Foundation and Tempus), environmental protection, trade and services. The Community is providing up to 50 per cent of G24 balance of payment loans to certain Eastern European countries;

(e) Assistance through the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to which the member States of the Community have contributed 51 per cent of the capital;

(f) Increased assistance through the European Investment Bank;

(g) The member States of the Community participate actively through the CSCE process which has recently produced a Charter for a New Europe setting out inter alia certain guiding principles for the development of business and investment;

(h) The European Community foreign ministers agreed in November 1989 on a common strategy for easing COCOM restrictions on exports to Eastern Europe;

(i) Certain provisions for debt relief have been made by member States;

(j) In addition considerable bilateral assistance has been provided by several member States.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

[Original: English]

[2 April 1991]

The Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations wishes to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations that the information concerning General Assembly resolution 45/234 on the implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, particularly the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, has been forwarded to the relevant Ministries in Papua New Guinea for their information and appropriate action.

SWEDEN

[Original: English]

[24 May 1991]

1. The Swedish Government welcomed the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular Revitalization of the Economic Growth and Development. The contents of the Declaration and its adoption by consensus signaled an increased willingness to address global development issues in a new spirit of advanced multilateral dialogue, cooperation and partnership. The solemn pledge by the States Members of the United Nations concerning implementation of commitments and policies was taken note of by the Swedish Government as an achievement of particular value.

2. The Declaration has subsequently served favourable as a point of departure or as a chapeau for the outcome of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and for the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.

3. For the future, and in particular with regard to other upcoming multilateral conferences like the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Sweden expects all Member States to seek guidance in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation.

4. The overall objective of Swedish assistance for development is to raise the living standards of poor people. The five Swedish development policy goals - growth in resources, economic and social independence, democratic development and far-sighted management of natural resources and environmental conservation - interact and interlock with each other in achieving our overall objective. The commitments and policies outlined in the Declaration are in line with these objectives and they also serve as challenging stimuli for future Swedish endeavours in the field of bilateral and multilateral international development cooperation.

5. Of particular merit is that the respective responsibilities of developing countries, the industrialized countries, as well as the United Nations agencies and international financing institutions, are clearly spelt out in the Declaration.

6. Among the specific subject-matters covered in the Declaration, Sweden attaches special importance to sustainable development and to the development and utilization of human resources. Democracy, human rights, equitable rights for men and women as well as opportunities for the poor are questions of particular relevance for Sweden's participation in international development cooperation.

7. Sweden finds the stagnant or declining ODA levels alarming. Major donors which remain clearly below the international target have a special

responsibility in contributing to a substantial increase in ODA flows. It is essential that a larger share of resources goes to low-income countries. While increased transfers to Central and Eastern Europe may be called for it is essential that such resource flows will not be to the detriment of the poorest countries.

8. The external debt problems of the developing countries constitute one of the main impediments to economic growth and development. Sweden has presented proposals for debt relief for medium-income and low-income countries, i.e., during the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly on international economic cooperation and development and at the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. Sweden has promoted several concrete measures, which have gained international acceptance, for example greater concessionality in rescheduling terms in the Paris Club, debt-servicing support for World Bank loans and buy-back operations. Sweden's 1990/91 development assistance appropriations for special support to low-income debt-distressed countries amount to SEK 640 million (more than $US 100 million). Most of this aid consists of additional import support to help finance economic recovery programmes.

9. Finally, free trade is perhaps the most urgent issue on the international economic agenda. Trade has also been given its proper place in the Declaration. Sweden has lived up to the spirit of the Declaration in the conviction that an open and credible multilateral trading system is essential for the promotion of growth and development. One example in this context is the dismantling of Swedish restrictions on textiles and clothing from 31 July this year. The Uruguay Round must be brought to an early and balanced conclusion.

SWITZERLAND

[Original: French]

[19 April 1991]

1. Switzerland has adopted numerous measures which fall within the context of resolution S-18/3, thus playing its full part within the international community. The most important of these measures are the following:

A. Paragraph 14 (creating an open and equitable trading system)

2. True to its market-economy tradition and international commitments, Switzerland continued to practise a liberal trade policy during 1990 and 1991. In particular, Switzerland pursued the following courses of action:

(a) Trade policy and any new measures are subject to detailed analysis by the administration. This analysis includes, as a matter of course, their impact on the economies of developing countries.

(b) Changes made to customs duties and preferential tariffs which are of particular interest to developing countries concern tropical commodities (the Swiss contribution to the Uruguay Round, brought into force on 1 July 1989) and sugar (developing countries exempted from tariffs as from 1 July 1989).

(c) No anti-dumping or compensatory duties have been imposed.

(d) No restrictive trade agreements or arrangements have been concluded with any other country.

(e) Apart from the measures covered by Switzerland's Protocol of Accession to GATT, there has been no recourse to subsidies or other incentives, or to tariff measures such as quantitative restrictions or the restrictive granting of licences, protective measures or other measures such as voluntary restrictions on exports, trade exchange controls (apart from those prescribed by multilateral agreements), price controls, etc.

B. Paragraph 22 (coordination of macroeconomic policies)

3. The authorities intervene as little as possible in the management of the Swiss economy. In this respect, they observe the following guidelines:

(a) In principle, no help is provided by the authorities to lagging sectors of the economy; it is, indeed, the official policy of non-intervention in solving the problems of some sectors of the economy that are in a state of crisis that should lead to a strengthening both of the economy in general - in the sense that the economy must develop its own capacity for constant adjustment - and, in particular, of the sectors concerned.

(b) There is no official aid for adjustments to the economy, such as the transfer of workers from industries that are in a state of crisis (apart from a few minor and restricted retraining programmes under the unemployment benefits system).

C. Paragraph 26 (external debt problems)

4. A programme credit of SwF 840 million (approximately $US 600 million) dated 21 February 1990, for the continued financing of economic and trade policy measures as part of international development cooperation, provides SwF 100 million (approximately $US 70 million) for debt reduction operations.

5. A programme credit of SwF 400 million (approximately $US 300 million) allocated to the developing countries to mark the seven-hundredth anniversary of the Swiss Confederation includes SwF 100 million (approximately $US 70 million) in the form of balance-of-payments assistance.

D. Paragraph 27 (assistance)

6. Switzerland increased its official development assistance in 1990 both in real terms and as a percentage of its GNP. That assistance amounted to SwF 97.5 million (approximately $US 70 million) or 0.30 per cent of GNP.

E. Paragraph 29 (environment)

7. A framework credit of SwF 300 million (approximately $US 200 million) to finance global environment programmes and projects in developing countries.

8. A contribution to the Global Environment Facility of the World Bank ($US 40 million).

F. Paragraph 30 (multilateral financial institutions)

9. The Government is preparing to propose to Parliament that Switzerland should join the Bretton Woods institutions.

G. Paragraph 33 (diversification of commodities from developing countries)

10. A programme of compensatory payments for the lost export earnings of developing countries, the volume of which has almost doubled during the period 1991-1994 (Swf 90 million, or approximately $US 65 million).

H. Paragraph 35 (Central and Eastern Europe)

11. A programme credit of SwF 250 million (approximately $US 170 million) to finance the strengthening of cooperation with Eastern European States. These resources are additional to Switzerland's official development assistance.

12. Non-tied credits in the G-24 context:

Hungary	$US 30 million
Czechoslovakia	$US 40 million
Bulgaria	$US 32 million

13. Stabilization funds:

Poland	$US 30 million
Yugoslavia	$US 29 million

TURKEY

[Original: English]

[17 April 1991]

The following are the main steps taken by Turkey in its economic relations with developing countries:

(a) Turkey participated in the Protocol Relating to the Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries which was negotiated under GATT auspices in 1972, and granted in 1990 substantial additional reductions in the rates of duties covered by its schedule of concessions related to the Protocol as a contribution to the objectives of the Uruguay Round.

(b) As a member of the OIC (Organization of the Islamic Conference), Turkey intends to sign the new Framework Agreement for the Establishment of a Tariff Preferential System among the member States of this conference, and consequently grant tariff advantages to an important number of developing countries. OIC membership also covers many fields of economic cooperation.

(c) Turkey created with the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan the ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization) which aims at economic cooperation in the region.

(d) As of April 1991, Turkey had signed Trade and/or Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreements with the following developing countries, and additionally a Joint Economic Commission was created with each of the countries marked with (J): Afghanistan, Algeria (J), Bahrain, Bangladesh (J), Chile, China (J), Djibouti, Egypt (J), Ethiopia, Gambia, India (J), Indonesia (J), the Islamic Republic of Iran (J), Iraq (J), Jordan (J), Republic of Korea (J), Kuwait (J), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (J), Malaysia (J), Malta, Morocco (J), Nigeria (J), Pakistan (J), Qatar, Romania (J), Saudi Arabia (J), Sierre Lecne, Somalia, Sri Lanka (J), Sudan (J), Syrian Arab Republic (J), Thailand (J), Tunisia (J), United Arab Emirates (J), Yugoslavia (J), Zaire.

(e) Commercial credits were extended by Turkey to the following developing countries: Algeria (1987 and 1989), Bangladesh (1986), Pakistan (1986), Romania (1990), Sudan (commercial and investment credits, 1987), Syrian Arab Republic (1990).

UKRAINE

[Original: Russian]

[30 April 1991]

1. The Ukrainian SSR attaches great importance to the practical implementation of the commitments and policies agreed to in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries.

2. The adoption of the Declaration at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly was an important breakthrough in efforts to reach agreement on a universal basis on the principles governing the movement of the world community towards harmonious economic cooperation. The new global consensus, proclaimed in the Declaration, on ways of promoting international economic cooperation and creating relations of mutual partnership based on new principles was made possible by the emergence of political conditions that are conducive to progress in solving urgent international economic problems: a definite course has been taken in removing the potential nuclear threat, the groundwork is being laid for settling regional conflicts and an atmosphere of mutual responsibility is being created in confronting the global challenges that face mankind.

3. At the same time, we must recognize that today's political realities have far outstipped the development of international economic relations. The Declaration, in making an assessment of the 1980s, quite rightly emphasized the widening gap between developed and developing countries, the existence of significant financial and trade imbalances, the worsening external debt problem and the transfer of resources from developing countries, and the deterioration of the environment.

4. It is especially significant that the Declaration noted the sweeping political and economic changes taking place in the Eastern European countries, and the fact that those countries were not appropriately involved in the world economic system and face problems of adaptation to the scientific, technological and structural changes taking place in the world economy.

5. As an Eastern European State, the Ukrainian SSR attaches particular importance to the consensus approaches provided for in the Declaration, to the need to support the Eastern European countries in their efforts to integrate themselves into the international economic system.

6. In so far as the practical implementation of the commitments and policies agreed to in the Declaration are concerned, it should be noted that the above-mentioned approaches are in line with the processes currently taking place in the Republic. The most important such process is the active legislative effort aimed at creating a firm normative basis for the radical restructuring of internal economic mechanisms towards market relations and the creation of conditions for adapting the national economy to the complex,

dynamic conditions that characterize the world economy. The main documents adopted by the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR in the period following the eighteenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly include the Declaration on the State sovereignty of the Ukraine, the law on the economic self-reliance of the Ukrainian SSR, the plan for the transition of the Ukranian SSR to a market economy, laws governing foreign economic activity, prices and pricing, the State tax service, the budget system and enterprise, the Land Code and a number of other instruments which, based on the need for the comprehensive political, economic, social and spiritual development of the Ukraine, are steering the Republic's national economy towards the transition to a market economy and towards its increasingly active involvement in world economic relations and the international division of labour.

7. The Supreme Soviet, in an effort to ensure that the laws it adopts are consistent with existing international practice, is transmitting the drafts thus prepared to international experts, including experts of the competent international organizations.

8. The Ukrainian SSR endorses one of the basic provisions of the Declaration, namely, that the reactivation of economic growth and development in the developing countries will require a concerted and committed effort by all countries. Accordingly, despite the obvious economic difficulties of the transition period, it is helping developing States to overcome their backwardness and forge and develop their national economies.

9. Thousands of Ukrainian specialists are currently engaged in the building and reconstruction of a variety of economic facilities in developing countries. For the past 30 years, the Republic's establishment of higher and specialized secondary education have been providing training for those countries' skilled workers. There are at present over 20,000 citizens of Asian, African and Latin American countries studying in 136 educational establishments in the Ukraine. Hundreds of specialized workers from developing States have improved their skills at the UNIDO seminars and practical workshops on electric welding and metallurgy held at Kiev and Zaporozhye. Commercial and economic cooperation is growing and Ukrainian enterprises are now in production in 82 developing countries.

10. The Ukrainian SSR believe that the practical implementation of the provisions of the Declaration of the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly should, of necessity, involve the application of specific measures to give effect to the basic principles set forth in that document. As you know, those principles relate primarily to the following: the responsibility of each individual country for its economic policy and the need to take into account the possible impact of that policy on the international economy; the openness of the economic system; the interdependent nature of the adaptation of national economies to changes in the world economy and their integration into the international economic system; the need to take full account of the interests and problems of all countries when implementing macroeconomic coordination; the need to ensure favourable access to environmentally safe

technologies; and the reduction of military expenditures by all countries in order to ensure increased spending on social and economic development for the benefit of all countries.

11. Concerning the Declaration's quite correct thesis as to the role of the United Nations in international cooperation for revitalizing development in the 1990s, the Ukrainian SSR shares the view that it would be advisable for the United Nations Secretary-General, using the consultative mechanism of ACC to draft practical recommendations for Member States and for organizations of the United Nations system on ways of applying the above-mentioned principles.

12. The Ukrainian SSR attaches great importance to the practical implementation of the commitments and policies agreed to in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and is ready to make its own constructive contribution to solving the problems that confront this important area of United Nations economic activity.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]

[30 April 1991]

1. The Soviet Union views the Declaration adopted at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly as an important political document which strengthens the fundamental principles of universal economic cooperation between States in today's interdependent world. The results of the special session testify to the growing willingness of Members of the United Nations to develop essentially new relations of mutual partnership on a basis which is free from the ideological constraints of the time of confrontation. The drive to combine efforts to overcome the economic divisions between North and South, East and West, and to set up new structures of cooperation capable of effectively integrating national economies into the world economy is gradually gaining strength. The area of common ground regarding ways and means of solving the problems of economic development is becoming significantly broader.

2. In view of the active involvement of the United Nations in consideration of the changing relations between East and West and the influence on world economic growth, including on the position of the developing countries, and in particular on international economic cooperation, the Soviet Union notes the need for a calm and thorough analysis of all aspects of this process. We believe that the improvement of relations between East and West will bring direct and clear political advantage to all members of the world community. In our opinion this concept must be basic to and exercise a decisive influence on all activities of the United Nations in this sphere.

3. The United Nations could play an important role in promoting the implementation of those provisions of the Declaration that relate to political support for reforms in Eastern Europe and the USSR. It is quite obvious that the effectiveness of the world community's assistance, including that of the organs and organizations of the United Nations and the United Nations system, will depend in large measure on whether these countries are able, rapidly and at minimal expense, to introduce market mechanisms into their economy and, ultimately, to establish the conditions necessary for successful integration of their economies into the overall world economic system.

4. The USSR for its part has, since the adoption of the Declaration, done much to bring its economic activity into line with world practice and to achieve full integration into the system of world economic relations. The nation's Parliament has approved the "Basic legislation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Union Republics concerning leasing" (adopted on 23 November 1990), the "Basic legislation concerning investment activities in the USSR" (adopted on 10 December 1990), the USSR laws on businesses (4 June 1990), taxes on businesses, unions and organizations (14 May 1990), currency regulations in the USSR (27 February 1991), the Customs Code and the Law on Customs Tariffs (23 March 1991). Work is nearing completion on basic civil laws, and on laws relating to entrepreneurship and foreign investments.

5. Implementation of fundamentally important provisions which have already been adopted by legislative acts, such as those relating to the inclusion of foreign citizens and juridical persons in the list of subject of investment activities in the territory of the USSR, the establishment of guarantees concerning the rights of subjects of investment activities and of State guarantees for the protection of investments, including foreign investments, will promote greater economic openness in our country. Agreements have been signed with many countries of Eastern Europe and a number of other countries concerning mutual protection of investments and the elimination of double taxation. In the final analysis it is a question of completing the elaboration of conditions and procedures governing the economic activity of foreign capital in the territory of the USSR not only through joint ventures but also through the establishment of 100 per cent foreign-owned firms and the acquisition and lease by foreigners of various types of property and property rights.

6. Additional economic incentives, for example, the granting of additional tax benefits and the right of such firms to export their own products, and to import for their own needs without a license, are being established by law to attact foreign capital.

7. It should be noted, in particular, that the intention is to transfer a considerable portion of the issues relating to the regulation of foreign investments to the competence of the Republics, including the autonomous Republics. Only issues that are truly of nationwide importance will remain under the authority of the Union. Thus there is every reason to believe that the investment regime which is being formulated in the Soviet Union will be fabourable to foreign capital.

8. Work is continuing on the establishment of joint ventures in the USSR; by the end of 1990 more than 2,000 joint ventures had been registered, of which some 800 were formed in the course of that year. The total authorized capital of the joint ventures amounts to 5.6 billion roubles, with the resources of foreign participants accounting for some 3 billion. The largest joint ventures are the Moscow International Bank, a type of consortium with an authorized capital of 100 million roubles, the Soviet-Swedish "Vikingtrans" (83 million roubles, tourism and transport), the Soviet-French "Soreal" (51.6 million roubles, personal hygiene products), the Soviet-American "Krovtech" (48.1 million roubles, manufacture of roofing materials), the Soviet-German "Homarek" (47.7 million roubles, machine tools).

9. Activities relating to the problem of conversion should make a useful contribution to the implementation of the Declaration in the coming years, and the improvement in relations between East and West has created favourable conditions for such activities. Initial approaches to solving the task of transforming a military economy to peace were very thoroughly and fruitfully discussed at an international United Nations conference in Moscow. The discussions demonstrated clearly yet again that despite all the differences in social and economic systems, in size and structure of national military and economic potential, there are a whole series of common problems which each State will of necessity come up against during the process of conversion. Consequently, many expenses in this sphere can be avoided by drawing on collective experience and collective reason.

10. This invites the conclusion that the potential of the United Nations needs to be fully and comprehensively brought to bear on the task, in order, in particular, to resolve such practical tasks as the comparison of the various means of carrying out conversion and the joint development of the best models for the process. It would also be possible to prepare a comprehensive analysis of the topic and to include this issue or individual aspects of it in the agenda of the United Nations Disarmament Commission. The range of practical activities which the United Nations might take in this sphere could be very broad.